

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 PRS-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /065 W

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P R 011120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1910

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1146

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: MARIO SOARES VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

1. LAST NIGHT (FEB 28) I HAD BRIEF PRIVATE TALK WITH SOARES  
ON LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION. FIRST SUBJECT I RAISED WAS  
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INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM.

2. SOARES SAID THE WORST WAS OVER ON THIS ISSUE. THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAD MUSTERED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AGAINST THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE AFM PROPOSALS AND HE WAS CONFIDENT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE WOULD BE REACHED.

3. I OBSERVED THAT THE SITUATION SEEMED TO HAVE STABILIZED A BIT THESE LAST TWO WEEKS. SOARES SAID MATTERS HAD INDEED IMPROVED. FOR ONE THING THE COMMUNISTS HAD OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND BY HOLDING SO MANY RALLIES IN RURAL AREAS. THE PEOPLE WERE REACTING AGAINST THE PCP'S HIGH DECIBEL TACTICS. WHILE COMMUNISTS HAVE LOST GROUND, THEY ARE STILL DANGEROUS.

4. I SAID I ALSO SENSED A STRONGER REACTION AMONG MODERATE MILITARY ELEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE I HAD LUNCHEDED TODAY WITH TWO GENERALS WHO WERE "FED UP" WITH EXCESSES. SOARES SAID THAT "FED UP" WAS THE RIGHT WORD. THE MODERATE MILITARY WAS TAKING A STRONGER POSTURE.

5. TOLD SOARES I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT VIOLENT TACTICS AGAINST POLITICAL RALLIES. A PATTERN OF VIOLENCE COULD DIVERT GOP FROM ITS DEMOCRATIC PATH. AFM COULD CERTAINLY TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE COUNTER MEASURES THAN IT HAS TO DATE. NO ONE IN AUTHORITY HAD EVEN CONDEMNED VIOLENT TACTICS.

6. SOARES SAID HE HAD CONDEMNED VIOLENCE (BUT HE DID THIS IN POLITICAL NOT OFFICIAL CAPACITY). HE ALSO NOTED THAT VIOLENCE WAS NOT BEING PERPETRATED BY PCP BUT BY DISSIDENT GROUPS SUCH AS LUAR AND MRPP.

7. TOLD SOARES I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT THAT IF HE FOUND IT HELPFUL I WAS CERTAIN HE COULD SAY I HAD EXPRESSED USG CONCERN OVER EMERGING PATTERN OF VIOLENCE AND LACK OF ADEQUATE COUNTER MEASURES. SOARES GAVE POLITE BUT NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE. THE NEXT DAY THE AFM ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING VIOLENCE (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY), BUT I DOUBT THIS CONVERSATION HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

8. WHILE I WAS MEETING WITH SOARES, DCM WAS MEETING WITH HIS PRINCIPAL AIDE IN PSP, CUNHA REGO, WHO EXPOUNDED ON SOME OF POINTS  
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MADE BY SOARES. CUNHA REGO CONVERSATION BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Draft Date:** 01 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARIO SOARES VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (SOARES, MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPEZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006